

# STREET SMART

September 7, 2005

Governments  
**SANBAG**  
Working Together

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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### ■ Board awards contract for I-10 work

Construction cones and the beep-beep-beep of heavy equipment are coming soon to Redlands, with the award of a \$46 million contract to Atkinson Contractors for the widening of Interstate 10.

Atkinson Contractors was the lowest bidder among six firms. Bids were opened August 26. Rising concrete costs, bridge removal costs and the challenges of working on an existing freeway caused the bids to be about 29% higher than anticipated.

The bid is subject to approval by the Federal Highway Administration, since the project is partially funded by federal dollars. Atkinson also is helping to build State Route 210 in Rialto and San Bernardino.

Work is expected to start in the middle or late October and last about 28 months. The project is designed to reduce traffic congestion by adding one lane both eastbound and westbound between Orange Street and Ford Street, a distance of 2.5 miles. This will result in four lanes in each direction, instead of the current three, and will match the four existing lanes that are west of Orange Street, reducing the bottleneck in this area.



Work will start this fall to add new lanes eastbound and westbound on Interstate 10 in Redlands.

The new lanes will be built next to the freeway median and will feature a new concrete center barrier. Eleven bridges will be widened as part of the project. The bridge removal and rebuilding will be completed mainly at night. This work also will require 43 palm trees to be relocated to sites near Ford Street and Cypress Avenue.

The project also will involve rehabilitation of the westbound freeway shoulder, which will force the closure of two lanes at night for a three-month period. Most of the roadway work on the project will occur during daytime hours.

In addition, more than 4,000 meters of sound walls will be built along the freeway in areas approved in noise studies. A Freeway Service Patrol also will be in effect within the construction zone (see page 2).

Funding for the work is provided by a combination of state, federal and local dollars. The local funds are derived from Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County. SANBAG managed the project design and will manage the construction, with oversight by Caltrans and FHWA.

### ■ SANBAG to acquire more kangaroo rat habitat



Work on the State Street storm drain, which is part of the State Route 210 construction project, will require the purchase of three acres of habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat.

Board members approved the purchase of property from a local habitat land bank at a cost of \$70,000 to \$80,000 per acre.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff determined last month that construction of a storm drain channel between Base Line Road and Lytle Creek would permanently impact the habitat of the rat, an endangered species. This permanent impact required SANBAG to acquire the new acreage from the land bank, located within the Cajon Pass.

To date, SANBAG has funded more than \$10 million for San Bernardino kangaroo rat mitigation for the Route 210 project.

### Down the road ...

- Sept. 14: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 16: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 21: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Sept. 22: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Sept. 23: State of the Inland Empire/Transportation Summit, 10:30 a.m.- 2 p.m., National Orange Show, San Bernardino

## SANBAG seeks proposals for Freeway Service Patrol

### New service to provide free roadside aid to stranded motorists

SANBAG will begin soliciting proposals from tow truck operators this month for the new Freeway Service Patrol program in San Bernardino County. Proposals are due on September 27, and plans are underway to launch the program in January.

The program will help stranded motorists on the heaviest traveled freeways in the San Bernardino Valley by providing free aid, such as fixing a flat tire, jump-starting a battery or taping leaky radiator hoses. If necessary, the tow truck operators will tow the vehicle to selected off-ramp locations approved by the California Highway Patrol. The roving tow trucks will operate Monday through Friday during peak morning and afternoon commute times.



#### San Bernardino County Program History

Nineteen counties in California have Freeway Service Patrol programs. In September 2003, SANBAG submitted an application to Caltrans for funding, but the request was denied, due to guidelines that prohibited new participants unless funding for the program was increased.

Assembly Bill 2498, authored by then-Assemblyman John Longville, clarified the statute to ensure that regional and local agencies that meet the minimum criteria may participate in Freeway Service Patrol programs, regardless of whether additional funding is appropriated to the program. The statute was signed into law September 21. The change in statute required the state to approve the previously submitted application and to provide funding for SANBAG's program. Funding for the program was included in the 2005-06 state budget.

In the past, SANBAG has operated temporary Freeway Service Patrols within construction zones. These were in effect during construction of carpool lanes on Interstate 10 in the Ontario area and the recently completed I-10 truck-climbing lane between Redlands and Yucaipa.

#### Freeway Service Patrol Beats

Six Freeway Service Patrol beats were approved last month by the Board of Directors. Tow truck firms will submit proposals to serve the following stretches of freeways:

- Interstate 10 from the Los Angeles County line to Haven Avenue in Ontario
- Interstate 10 from Haven Avenue to Sierra Avenue in Fontana
- Interstate 10 from Sierra Avenue to Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino
- Route 60 from the Los Angeles County line to Milliken Avenue in Ontario

- Interstate 15 at the Riverside County line to Baseline Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga
- Interstate 215 at the Riverside County line to Second Street in San Bernardino

Five other "back-up beats" also were approved, if additional funding becomes available. These include two sections of Interstate 10, plus sections on Interstate 15, Interstate 215 and State Route 210.

During the upcoming widening of Interstate 10 in Redlands, an FSP beat will be established to offer help within this construction zone.

#### Program Benefits

Freeway Service Patrols offer significant benefits. The program not only reduces the amount of time that stranded motorists spend in unsafe conditions in traffic lanes, but also cuts traffic delays, fuel consumption, pollution and secondary accidents.

During the FSP that was in operation for 18 months during construction of the I-10 truck-climbing lane in Redlands and Yucaipa, the program aided more than 4,000 motorists with the following:

- 1,103 mechanical repairs
- 984 flat tires
- 570 overheated vehicles
- 441 empty gas tanks
- 375 accidents
- 308 abandoned vehicles
- 238 instances of debris in the road
- 170 electrical problems
- 9 miscellaneous problems, including vehicle fires, drivers who locked their keys in the car and other incidents

#### Program Costs

The program will be funded by state and Measure I half-cent sales tax revenue. SANBAG has budgeted \$1.3 million per year — about \$980,348 from state funds and \$326,782 from Measure I.